Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates 6 Bladen Street, Room 306 Annapolis, Maryland 21401 410-841-3544 · 301-858-3544 800-492-7122 Ext. 3544 Pat. Young@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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Madam Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

I'm happy to present for you HB580 - Maryland Transit Administration Police – Collective Bargaining – Supervisors and Sergeants. Put simply this legislation expands the list of Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) employees that are authorized to participate in collective bargaining with MTA to include supervisors and sergeants within the MTA Police.

The MTA Police Force was founded by state legislation in 1971 as a full-service police force, holding jurisdiction and full police authority throughout the state of Maryland. The MTA Police Force investigates all state law as well as city and county code violations occurring within MTA vehicles, stations, facilities, and property. This includes all five modes of transportation contained in MTA's portfolio: Bus, Metro, Light-Rail, ParaTransit, and Commuter Rail (MARC).

The right to collectively bargain is fundamental to ensuring the long-term quality of an employee's place of work, the policies that govern fair practices, and the wellbeing of those in the workplace. The passage of HB580 would extend the ability to collectively bargain, if they so choose, to the MTA Police Force and align them with almost every other similar law enforcement unit across Maryland.

I thank you for your time and urge a favorable report on HB580.

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Pat Young